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**Rural District Council  
of Morpeth**

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**ANNUAL REPORT**

of the



**MEDICAL OFFICER  
OF HEALTH**

**FOR THE YEAR**

**1960**



ANNUAL REPORT  
of the  
Medical Officer of Health  
For the Year 1960.

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To the Chairman and Members of the Morpeth  
Rural District Council.

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Mr. Chairman and Councillors,

I beg to present to you, my report, together with that of the Chief Public Health Inspector, for the year, 1960.

The vital statistics are less satisfactory than in the previous year. The birth-rate has fallen from 18.25 to 17.15 per 1,000 of the population which is almost exactly the same as the birth-rate in the whole of England and Wales. The death-rate has risen slightly and is higher than the national average rate. There were 5 stillbirths in 1960, less than half the number in the previous year, giving a rate of 17 per 1,000 live and stillbirths which is less than the national average.

Unfortunately, there were 15 deaths among infants below the age of one year and this has produced the highest infant mortality rate for many years. Of these deaths, however, 11 took place within the first two weeks of life and 8 within the first week.

The number of deaths from malignant neoplasms fell from 29 to 23 and the death-rate from this cause in the Morpeth Rural District is lower than in the country as a whole.

The position as regards tuberculosis is satisfactory, there being only one new case notified and only one death from this cause.

There is reason for satisfaction in the improved water supplies in the south-western part of the district, previously so poorly supplied but there is still much to be done before the whole district has an adequate and wholesome water supply. There has, however, been great progress towards this end, in recent years.

In conclusion, I would thank Councillors for the consideration they have shown to me and I would like to express my sincere appreciation of the work of the Public Health Inspectors and of the co-operation I have received from all departments of the Council.

I am,

Mr. Chairman and Councillors,

Your obedient Servant,

C. B. McGregor. M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.  
Medical Officer of Health.  
Rural District of Morpeth.




RURAL DISTRICT OF MORPETH

OFFICERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

Medical Officer of Health	CATHERINE B. MCGREGOR, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
Assistant Medical Officer	KATHLEEN DICK, M.B., B.S., B.Hy., D.P.H.
Public Health ) Housing        ) Meat            )	Inspector Mr. W. G. Webb, R.S.I. & S.I.J.B. Meat Inspector's Certs.
Additional P. H. Inspector	Mr. J.T. Nicholson, R.S.I. & S.I.J.B. Meat Inspector's Certs.
Offices of the Medical Officer	146, Station Road, Ashington
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3.  
SECTION A.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

There is no change in the acreage or boundaries of the district but the Registrar-General's estimate of the resident population at mid-1960 shows an increase of 440 over the 1959 estimate, which, rather surprisingly, showed a decline of 670.

The employment available remains unchanged but the closing of Broomhill Colliery will mean that miners in that area will have to be transferred to other pits, probably outside the Rural District, for the most part.

The very fine sandy coastal strip from Druridge Bay northwards is attracting increasing numbers of visitors, both day trippers and campers, and this is creating problems for the Council in connection with the need to provide sanitary accommodation and to deal with the quantities of litter, which holidaymakers seem, ~~inevitably~~, to leave behind them. A great deal of thought has been given to these matters, by the Public Health Committee and it is hoped that it will be possible to provide public conveniences at Druridge and Hadstone and increased accommodation at Cresswell. The solution of the problem is ~~urgent~~ but not easy.

Area in Acres.....	79,193
Registrar-General's estimate of resident population mid-1960.	17,860
Rateable Value.....	£209,425
One Penny Rate Produces.....	£850-7-9.824d.
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1960).....	5,176.

VITAL STATISTICS. (the figures in brackets are for E. & W.)

BIRTHS.

<u>Live Births.</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>
Legitimate.....	279	148	131
Illegitimate.....	10	5	5
	<u>289</u>	<u>153</u>	<u>136</u>
Crude Birth Rate.....		16.18 per 1,000	
Standard Birth Rate. (Crude Birth Rate x Comparability Factor 1.03 per 1,000).....		17.15 (17.1)	

<u>Still Births.</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female.</u>
Legitimate.....	5	3	2
Rate per 1,000 (live and still) births.....		17 (19.7)	
Rate per 1,000 of the population.....		0.28	

	<u>DEATHS.</u>	
	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Male. Female.</u>
	187	102 85
Crude Death Rate.....		10.47
Standard Death Rate (Crude Death Rate x Comparability Factor 0.73).....		12.78 (11.5)
Deaths from Feceral Causes (Heading 30 of the Registrars Short List) Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion.		1
Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 total (live and still births).....		3.4 (0.39)

Deaths of Infants under 1 year.

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>
Legitimate.	9	6

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year.

All infants per 1,000 live births	51.9 (21.7)
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	53.76
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	Nil

Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks.

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>
Legitimate	7	4

Deaths of Infants under 1 week.

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>
Legitimate	5	3

Neonatal Mortality Rate (Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks  
per 1,000 live births) 38.06

Early Neonatal Mortality Rate (Deaths under 1 week per  
1,000 live births) 27.68

Perinatal Mortality Rate (Stillbirths & Deaths under  
1 week per 1,000 live and  
still births.) 44.22



The Registrar-General supplies the following:-

CAUSE OF DEATH

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>
1. Tuberculosis (respiratory)	1	-
2. Tuberculosis (other forms)	-	-
3. Syphilitic Disease	1	-
4. Diphtheria	-	-
5. Whooping Cough	-	-
6. Meningococcal Infections	-	-
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-
8. Measles	-	-
9. Other infective and Parasitic Diseases	2	-
10. Malignant Neoplasms (stomach)	1	2
11. Malignant Neoplasms ((Lung and Bronchus)	5	2
12. Malignant Neoplasms (Breast)	-	2
13. Malignant Neoplasms (Uterus)	-	-
14. Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms.	9	3
15. Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	-	-
16. Diabetes	-	1
17. Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	7	14
18. Coronary Disease, Angina	20	10
19. Hypertension with Heart Disease	3	4
20. Other Heart Diseases	13	14
21. Other Circulatory Diseases	2	3
22. Influenza	-	2
23. Pneumonia	4	5
24. Bronchitis	4	3
25. Other Diseases of Respiratory System	3	-
26. Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	2	1
27. Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	2	-
28. Nephritis and Nephrosis	2	-
29. Hyperplasia of Prostate	-	-
30. Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	-	1
31. Congenital Malformations	1	1
32. Other Defined and Ill-defined Diseases	9	12
33. Motor Vehicle Accidents	4	1
34. All other accidents	7	3
35. Suicide	-	1
36. Homicide and Operations of War	-	-
	<u>102</u>	<u>85</u>

PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF DEATH IN MORPETH RURAL DISTRICT.

	Total No.	% of total Deaths..
Diseases of the Heart & Circulation	69	36.9
Malignant Neoplasms	23	12.3
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	21	11.23
Total.....	113	60.43

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

Causes of Death.	Under 1 day	1 - 6 days	1 - 2 wks	3 - 4 wks.	Total under 1 month	1 - 2 mnts	3 - 5 mnts	6 - 8 mnts	9 - 11 mnts	Total under 1 year.
Prematurity	3	2	1	-	6	-	-	-	-	6
Atelectasis	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Congenital Abnormality	-	1	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	2
Broncho-pneumonia.	-	1	1	-	2	1	-	-	-	3
Asphyxia (Inhalation of Vomit)	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Malignant Neoplasm	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Gastro-enteritis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Total.	3	5	3	-	11	1	1	1	1	15

The following table give the comparative mortality rates during the past ten years, and deaths from enteritis under two years of age.

	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960
Enteritis under 2 years.	1	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Infantile Deaths under 1 year.	10	7	5	4	7	8	8	11	7	15
Infantile Mortality	38.02	24.22	16.45	15.75	26.12	28.57	25.08	33.03	23.33	51.9

S E C T I O N B.

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Laboratory Facilities.

These are provided by the Public Health Laboratory situated at Newcastle General Hospital and to a certain extent by the Pathological Laboratory at Ashington Hospital. The following table shows numbers of bacteriological examinations carried out.

Specimen sent by	Specimen	Pos.	Neg.
Regional Hospital Board Physician.	Sputum for B. Tuberculosis	1	-
General Practitioner	Swabs for Vincent's Organisms	-	6
General Practitioner	Swabs for Haemolytic Streptococci	5	14
General Practitioner	Swabs for C. Diphtheriae	-	15
General Practitioner	Swabs for Coagulase Positive Staphylococci	3	-
General Practitioner	Faeces for pathogenic organisms	1	-
Medical Officer of Health	" " "	6	28
Regional Hospital Board Physician	Faeces for pathogenic organisms	4	-
Medical Officer of Health	Faeces for Food Poisoning Organisms	-	5
Medical Officer of Health	Specimens of Food for food poisoning organisms.	-	2

Ambulance Facilities.

The ambulance service is provided by Northumberland County Council. Three ambulances and three drivers are stationed at Broomhill.

Other parts of the Rural District are served by ambulances stationed at Ashington and Morpeth.

Nursing in the Home.

The domiciliary nursing service is provided by Northumberland County Council and nurse-midwives are stationed as follows:-

Scotsgap	1	Meldon	1
Felton	1	Broomhill	1
Widdrington	1	Lynemouth	1

Pegswood, Longhirst, Mitford and Hepscoth districts are served by three nurse-midwives based at Morpeth



MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE SERVICES.

These are provided by the Northumberland County Council and Clinics are held at the following places and times.

Infant Welfare Clinics.

Acklington (Aerodrome)	alternate Tuesdays 1.30-4.p.m.
Hartburn Church Hall	Thursday 4 wkly intervals 1.30-4.p.m.
Linton Miner's Welfare	alternate Fridays 9.30-12noon
Longhorsley, Rose Cottage	Tuesday 4 wkly intervals 1.30-4.p.m.
Lynemouth Methodist Hall	alternate Tuesdays 9.30-12noon -1.30-4.p.m.
Pegswood, The Old School	alternate Tuesdays 9.30-12noon -1.30-4.p.m.
South Broomhill, Hadstone Road	every Wednesday 9.30-12noon -1.30-4.p.m.
Widdrington Social Club.	every Wednesday 1.30-4.p.m.

Toddlers' Clinic.

South Broomhill, Hadstone Rd. Wednesday 4 wkly intervals 9.30-12noon

Diphtheria Immunisation.

Lynemouth Methodist Hall	Tuesday 4 wkly intervals 1.30-4.p.m.
South Broomhill Hadstone Rd.	Wednesday 4 wkly intervals 1.30-4.p.m.

Ante-Natal Clinics.

Lynemouth Methodist Hall	Tuesday 4 wkly intervals 1.30-4.p.m.
Acklington (Aerodrome)	Tuesday 4 wkly intervals 1.30-4.p.m.



S E C T I O N C

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supplies.

On 1st April 1960, Tynemouth Corporation became the water undertakers for the whole of the Morpeth Rural District and the water supplied was adequate in quantity and, for the most part, satisfactory in quality.

No samples of the raw water were taken but nine samples of the water in course of distribution were taken and, of these, five were satisfactory and four were unsatisfactory. The results were immediately reported to the supplying authority which took remedial action, forthwith.

Chemical analysis of the water was not carried out as there was no evidence that it is of a plumbo-solvent nature. It is estimated that 90% of the houses and 90.48% of the population are served with water supplied through the public mains, while 94% of the houses and 89.85% of the population have the supply piped into the houses.

The following table sets out, by parishes, the numbers of dwelling houses and the number of the population supplied from public mains a) direct to the houses and b) by means of stand-pipe.

<u>Parish</u>	<u>Direct to Dwelling</u>		<u>From Standpipe.</u>	
	<u>No. of Houses</u>	<u>Estimated Population.</u>	<u>No. of Houses</u>	<u>Estimated Population.</u>
Cresswell	82	246	2	4
East Chevington	980	3,230	71	249
Ellington	370	1,295	1	2
Hartburn	55	165	6	16
Hebron	86	258	2	4
Hepscott	148	444	2	7
Longhirst	162	486	2	6
Longhorsley	122	427	2	4
Lynemouth	785	2,700	-	-
Meldon	73	219	-	-
Mitford	125	375	4	6
Netherwitton	83	249	-	-
Pegsworth	756	2,546	3	5
Thirston	98	294	-	-
Tritlington	53	159	-	-
Ulgham	656	2,203	6	18
Wallington Demesne	120	420	-	-
West Chevington	31	108	4	12
Widdrington	64	224	9	25
	4,869	16,048	112	354

The South West water scheme has greatly improved the position in that part of the district and the eastern, most thickly populated, part of the area is very adequately supplied but there are still many private water supplies in existence, particularly in the central areas, including Tritlington, Causey Park, Earsdon, Fenrother and Longhorsley where some of these supplies are inadequate in quantity and very unsatisfactory in quality.

Unfortunately, in the Causey Park area and neighbouring parts of the district there is, at present, no practical alternative to the continued use of these private supplies but it is hoped that an alternative supply will become available when the Coquet Water Scheme is in full operation.

#### Water Samples.

During the year 103 samples of water were taken for bacteriological examination and where results were unsatisfactory the supply was investigated, the owners notified and advice given on possible action to improve conditions, thereafter re-sampling was carried out.

The following table gives the date and place of collection, together with the result of each sample.

<u>No.</u>	<u>Place of Collection.</u>	<u>Result.</u>	<u>Date.</u>
1.	Tap, West Chevington, Morpeth	Nil per 100 ml.	4-2-60
2.	Tap, Tranwell Wood, Morpeth	" per 100 ml.	10-2-60
3.	Tap, Hepscott School, Morpeth	" per 100 ml.	10-2-60
4.	Cistern, Causey Park, Morpeth	" per 100 ml.	1.3.60
5.	Tap, The Hagg, Causey Park	13 per 100 ml.	1.3.60
6.	Tap, Hemelspeth Farm, Felton	13 per 100 ml.	1.3.60.
7.	Tap, Bridge End Cottage, Felton	3 per 100 ml.	1.3.60
8.	Well, Earsdon East Farm	90 per 100 ml.	3.3.60
9.	Tap, Earsdon West Farm	90 per 100 ml.	3.3.60
10.	Tap, The Vicarage, Hartburn	Nil per 100 ml.	23.3.60
11.	Tap, School Canteen, Hartburn	11 per 100 ml.	23.3.60
12.	Tap, The Cottage, High Angerton	35 per 100 ml.	23.3.60
13.	Tap, Ox Inn, Middleton	30 per 100 ml.	23.3.60
14.	Tap, West Moor, Thirston	Nil per 100 ml.	26.4.60
15.	Tap, West Howdens, Felton	" per 100 ml.	26.4.60
16.	Tap, North High Moor, Felton	180+ per 100 ml.	26.4.60
17.	Tap, South High Moor, Felton	Nil per 100 ml.	26.4.60
18.	Tap, Burgham Farm.	" per 100 ml.	3.5.60



<u>No.</u>	<u>Place of Collection.</u>	<u>Result</u>	<u>Date.</u>
19.	Tap, Longdyke, Morpeth	Nil per 100 ml.	3.5.60
20.	Tap, Thirston New Houses.	" per 100 ml.	3.5.60
21.	Tap, The Shaw Farm, Eshott	" per 100 ml.	3.5.60
22.	Tap, Eshottheugh, Morpeth	180+per 100 ml.	17.5.60
23.	Tap, Bockenfield, Felton	Nil per 100 ml.	17.5.60
24.	Tap, Bywell, Morpeth	180+per 100 ml.	17.5.60
25.	Tap, The Cott, Whemleyburn, Longhorsley	160 per 100 ml.	17.5.60
26.	Tap, Thirston Mill, Felton	Nil per 100 ml.	31.5.60
27.	Tap, Earsdon Moor, Morpeth	Nil per 100 ml.	31.5.60
28.	Tap, Earsdon Mill, Morpeth	Nil per 100 ml.	31.5.60
29.	Bucket, Tindale Hill, Morpeth	180+per 100 ml.	31.5.60
30.	Tap, Superintendents Dwelling, Cresswell	1 per 100 ml.	7.6.60
31.	Supply Pipe, Village Green, Cresswell	Nil per 100 ml.	7.6.60
32.	Tap, Earsdon West Forest, Morpeth	8 per 100 ml.	14.6.60
33.	Tap, Earsdon Hill, Morpeth	3 per 100 ml.	14.6.60
34.	Tap, Low Heighly, Morpeth	Nil per 100 ml.	21.6.60
35.	Tap, The Bungalow, Lough House Morpeth	Nil per 100 ml.	21.6.60
36.	Tap, Cottage, Corfenletch, Morpeth	Nil per 100 ml.	21.6.60
37.	Bucket, Thirston House, Felton	Nil per 100 ml.	28.6.60
38.	Tap, Hedley Wood, Longhorsley	Nil per 100 ml.	28.6.60
39.	Tap, Espley Hall, Morpeth	180+per 100 ml.	5.7.60
40.	Cistern, Espley Hall, Morpeth	180+per 100 ml.	5.7.60
41.	Tap, Oak Inn, Causey Park	1 per 100 ml.	5.7.60
42.	Tap, East Chevington, Morpeth	Nil per 100 ml.	5.7.60
43.	Tap, Wintrick Farm, Morpeth	Nil per 100 ml.	12.7.60
44.	Tap, Roselea, Causey Park	180+per 100 ml.	12.7.60
45.	Tap, Middle Fenrother, Morpeth	25 per 100 ml.	12.7.60
46.	Tap, Fenrother Lane, Morpeth	180+per 100 ml.	12.7.60
47.	Tap, Harelaw, Longhorsley	3 (Type 1)	26.7.60
48.	Tap, Haredene, Longhorsley	180+per 100 ml.	26.7.60
49.	Tap, Whinney Hill, Morpeth	3 per 100 ml.	26.7.60
50.	Tap, Roselea, Causey Park	90 per 100 ml.	10.8.60
51.	Well, Roselea, Causey Park	90 per 100 ml.	10.8.60
52.	Tap, Field Head, Longhorsley	90 per 100 ml.	10.8.60
53.	Pump, Faxton Dene, Longhorsley	180+per 100 ml.	16.8.60
54.	Tap, Southward Edge, Longhorsley	Nil per 100 ml.	16.8.60
55.	Tap, Haredene, Longhorsley	50 per 100 ml.	16.8.60
56.	Well, Haredene, Longhorsley	35 per 100 ml.	16.8.60
57.	Tap, Bellamour, Longhorsley	180+per 100 ml.	23.8.60
58.	Tap, Linden Hillhead, Longhorsley	Nil per 100 ml.	23.8.60
59.	Tap, East Linden Farm, Longhorsley	1 (Type 1)	23.8.60
60.	Tap, Swan Hill, Longhorsley	3 (Type 1)	30-8-60
61.	Tap, Ghyllheugh, Longhorsley	180+per 100 ml.	30.8.60
62.	Tap, Ghyllheugh, Longhorsley	Nil per 100 ml.	30-8-60
63.	Tap, Smallburn, Longhorsley	90 per 100 ml.	30.8.60
64.	Tap, Cottage, Tile Sheds, Hartburn	Nil per 100 ml.	6.9.60
65.	Tap, South Linden Farm, Longhorsley	5 (Type 1)	23.8.60
66.	Shallow well, Cott, Tile Sheds, Hartburn	50 per 100 ml.	6.9.60
67.	Collecting Tank, South Linden, Longhorsley	Nil per 100 ml.	13.9.60
68.	Shallow Well, "Bellamour", Longhorsley	Nil per 100 ml.	13.9.60
69.	Tap, Gyllheugh, Longhorsley	90 per 100 ml.	13.9.60
70.	Collecting Tank, Gyllheugh, Longhorsley	35 per 100 ml.	13.9.60
71.	Tap, Espley Hall, Morpeth	3 (Type 1)	27.9.60
72.	Cistern, Espley Hall, Morpeth	Nil per 100 ml.	27.9.60
73.	Reservoir, South Linden, Longhorsley	35 per 100 ml.	27.9.60
74.	Tap, South Linden, Longhorsley	180+per 100 ml.	27.9.60
75.	Tap, Stanton House, Morpeth	3 per 100 ml.	4.10.60
76.	Tap, Abshiel House, Morpeth	3 per 100 ml.	4.10.60
77.	Tap, Beacon Hill, Morpeth	180+per 100 ml.	4.10.60
78.	Tap, High Barns, Longhorsley	180+per 100 ml.	11.10.60
79.	Tap, North Birks, Longhorsley	1 (Type 1)	11.10.60
80.	Tap, Doehill Farm, Netherwitton	180+per 100 ml.	11.10.60
81.	Tap, Pity Me, Meldon	160 per 100 ml.	18.10.60
82.	Tap, Park Head, Netherwitton	35 per 100 ml.	18.10.60
83.	Folly House, Netherwitton	Nil per 100 ml.	18.10.60
84.	Reservoir, Horsley High Barns, Longhorsley	180+per 100 ml.	25.10.60
85.	Reservoir, Doehill Farm, Netherwitton	90 per 100 ml.	25.10.60
86.	Tap, The Barns, Netherwitton	25 per 100 ml.	25.10.60
87.	Tap, Thistlecock, Northside, Morpeth	Nil per 100 ml.	25.10.60
88.	Tap, Causey Park, Garage, Morpeth	8 per 100 ml.	15.11.60
89.	Tap, 21, Druridge Avenue, Broomhill	8 (Type 1)	15.11.60
90.	Tap, 6, Ferneybeds, Widdrington	Nil per 100 ml.	15.11.60



<u>No.</u>	<u>Place of Collection.</u>	<u>Result.</u>	<u>Date.</u>
91.	Tap, 21, Druridge Avenue Broomhill	1 per 100 ml.	22.11.60
92.	Tap, Earsdon East Forest.	35 per 100 ml.	22.11.60
93.	Tap, Longwitton Hall, Morpeth	.2 per 100 ml.	29.11.60
94.	Tap, East Cottages, Longwitton	Nil per 100 ml.	29.11.60
95.	Tap, Netherwitton Hall, Morpeth	✓ per 100 ml.	29.11.60
96.	Tap, Cottage, Netherwitton Hall	1 (Type 1)	29.11.60
97.	Tap, The Helm, Morpeth	11 per 100 ml.	6.12.60
98.	Tap, Eshottheugh, Morpeth	40 per 100 ml.	6.12.60
99.	Tap, Shotthaugh, Morpeth	20 per 100 ml.	6.12.60
100.	Tap, Farm Cottage, Bywell	180+per 100 ml.	6.12.60
101.	Tap, Needless, Hall, Meldon	180+per 100 ml.	13.12.60
102.	Tap, 5, Back Row, Cambo.	160 per 100 ml.	13.12.60
103.	Tap, Cottage, Wallington Hall Cambo.	35 per 100 ml.	13.12.60

#### Sewerage and Drainage.

Ministry approval was obtained for the provision of a sewer with sea outfalls for Cresswell Village. Following Ministry approval for extension of the sewerage for Pegswood Village, the works were commenced and substantially completed during the year.

A local enquiry into the necessity for a sewerage scheme for Ulgham Village was held but the year ended without further progress on this scheme.

#### Linton Sewer.

Repair of the sewer damaged by subsidence due to mining operations was completed.

#### New Drains and Septic Tanks.

New Drainage systems with connections to the Council's sewers were provided at:-

Longhirst	1
Pegswood	1
Mitford	2

and with connection to septic tanks at:-

Tritlington	1
Ellington	1

Conversion and abolition of conservancy type of sanitary accommodation under the provisions of Section 47, of the Public Health Act, 1936, continued to diminish and payment of grant was made in three cases only; two in Longhirst Parish and one in Mitford. The reduction in applications under this legislation is the natural consequence of the increasing use made of Discretionary and Standard Grants for general housing improvements and some 25 unsatisfactory type closets were abolished by these means leaving approximately 172 still in existence within the Rural District. Every effort continues to be made to reduce these numbers still further.

#### Schools

Hepscott County Primary School remains the only one within the Rural District that is without water carriage sanitation system but as the premises are to be closed before the end of another year the Education Authority considers that expenditure for improvements would be unjustified.

#### Public Cleansing.

Collection and disposal of household refuse throughout the whole of the rural district continued satisfactorily without any alteration in the numbers of employees or in the necessary plant and, as in previous years, the vehicles and crews were also brought into use as occasion demanded, for the levelling of temporary roadways to garage sites adjoining Council Housing estates and for additional duties in connection with the control and clearing of litter from the popular coastal strip extending from Snab Point, Cresswell, to north of Druridge Farm, a distance of some three miles.



The estimated weight of refuse collected from a total of 5,316 dwellings and business premises was 9,459 $\frac{1}{2}$  tons and the cost for collection and disposal including ancillary services and duties amounted to 24/6d per ton.

The total mileage of the four vehicles engaged on these operations amounted to 34,140 miles.

During the year, informal action was taken for the provision of 118 standard duct bins and 90 dust bins were provided to Council houses.

#### Refuse Disposal.

The existing disposal sites at Broomhill, East Chevington, Lynemouth, Longhirst, Longhorsley, Pegswood, and Widdrington continued to be used and maintained in such fashion as to keep the risk of nuisance from burning and from wind-bourne litter to a minimum. This is becoming increasingly difficult with the increase in domestic refuse, of papers, periodicals and cardboard containers etc. The Hepscott disposal site at Shadfen Park was discontinued during the year at the request of a farm owner and a bulldozer was employed on levelling and reinstating the land for the continuance of agricultural use. Refuse from the locality therefore had to be diverted to the Pegswood site and because of the rapidity with which this latter site was being filled efforts were made to secure an additional site at Causey Park and outline planning permission for the use of the site was obtained.

Every disposal site was regularly inspected and test baited for vermin and/or other nuisance and where necessary treatments were undertaken.

#### Caravans and Caravan Sites.

The demand for caravan sites continued to increase with every indication that this trend would continue and it is to be hoped that the advent of the new legislation "Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960", will ease the problems their control involves.

A total of 269 visits were made as a result of applications under section 269, Public Health Act, 1936, and the new legislation and with the investigations, inspection and control of caravans within the district.

#### Section 269, Public Health Act, 1936

New licences granted to station moveable dwellings	8
Renewal " " " " " "	6
Licence applications refused.	Nil

#### Site Licences.

Site licence renewal application.	1
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Planning permission to use land as sites for caravans was refused in four instances and the decisions in each case were upheld following appeal and local enquiry.

#### Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960

This Act came into operation on 29th August, 1960 and the owners and occupiers of land on which caravans were stationed were made familiar with the requirements of the Act and as a result 29 applications for site licences were received and forwarded to the North-umberland County Planning Department. Where planning permission is granted, site licences will be issued.

The rodent operative continued with his duties of regular inspection and treatment, as found necessary, of all Council properties including buildings and surface structures, refuse tips, sewers and sewerage disposal plants etc. Routine surveys were made of business and agricultural premises as the operative progressed through the various areas of the district and the following table gives details of the work.

TYPE OF PROPERTY.					
Non-Agricultural					
	(1) L.A.	(2) Dwelling Houses (incl. Council Houses)	(3) All other (including Business Premises)	(4) Total of Cols. (1) (2) & (3)	(5) Agricultural
1. Number of properties in Local Authority's District	21	5176	119	5316	230
2. Number of properties insp- ected as a result of:					
a) Notification	-	17	12	29	3
b) Survey under the Act	21	746	59	898	57
c) Otherwise (e.g. when visited primarily for some other purpose)	-	-	-	-	-
3. Total inspections carried out incl. re-inspections (To be completed only if figures are readily available)	93	763	71	927	60
4. No. of properties insp- ected (In Sect. 3) which were found to be infested by:-					
a) Rats (Major	-	-	1	1	3
(Minor	52	106	11	169	4
b) Mice (Major	-	1	-	1	-
(Minor	3	32	11	46	2
5. No. of infested props (in Sect. 4) treated by L.A. (figures should NOT exceed those given in Sect. 4.)	55	139	23	217	9
6. Total treatments carried out including re-treatments. (to be completed only if figures are readily available)	64	114	31	209	9
7. Number of notices served under Section 4 of the Act:					
a) Treatment	-	-	-	-	-
b) Structural work	-	-	-	-	-
8. No. of cases in which default action was taken following the issue of a notice under Sect. 4 of the Act.	-	-	-	-	-
9. Legal Proceedings	-	-	-	-	-
10. No. of "Block" control schemes carried out	-	-	-	-	-

N.B. The above table is a copy of the Annual Return to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food relating to the 12 months ended 31st December, 1960



Mosquito Control.

Following complaints of severe mosquito infestation in the Lynemouth area, immediate action was taken to control the nuisance and possible breeding areas were sprayed with light oil and, where advisable, with insecticide.

A contributory factor to the nuisance in this area would appear to be the frequent flooding of the land adjoining Lyne Cottage and the best method of alleviating this and, at the same time, improving the appearance of the area in general, would be for the land owners to reclaim by the dumping of colliery spoil. This could then be levelled and covered with soil and grassed or otherwise planted and would keep the river to a recognised course, improve the flow of water and eliminate a large unsightly area giving rise to the production of untold numbers of mosquitoes.

S E C T I O N D

TABULAR STATEMENT OF HOUSING FOR THE YEAR 1960

Number of Houses completed during the year:

a) By Local Authority.	8
b) By Other bodies or persons	31

Closing and Demolition

1. Houses demolished in Clearance Areas	Nil
2. Houses demolished not in Clearance Areas	11
3. Houses closed, not demolished	Nil
4. Any other houses permanently discontinued as dwellings and not included in above	2

Repairs.

Houses made fit by procedure under either Housing or Public Health Acts.

1. By informal action	8
2. By owners, following statutory notice	Nil
3. By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil
4. Demolition Orders revoked after reconstruction	Nil

Houses Fetched.

1. Houses in Clearance Areas still in use at end of year for temporary accommodation	Nil
--	-----

A. Discretionary Grants.

No. of separate Houses.

1. Applications submitted to L. A. during year	16 (63 Properties)
2. Applications rejected	Nil
3. Applications approved	16
4. Approximate average grant approved per house	£264-1-9d
5. Total number of houses approved for grant in the area since inception of scheme.	305

B. Standard Grants

During the Year,      Total to date.

1. Number of separate houses for which grants have been made	11	24
2. Number of houses so provided with:		
a) Bath or shower	9	20
b) Wash hand basin	9	20
c) Hot water supply	7	14
d) Water closet	11	19
e) Food Store	4	11



FACTORIES ACTS 1937 and 1948

There are in the district 33 factories and workshops, and all have mechanical power. The following table gives the number of inspections made during the year.

There are no outworkers in the area.

1. INSPECTIONS.

	Number on Register.	Number of		
		Inspections.	Written Notices.	Occupiers Prosecuted.
1. Factories in which Sects. 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by L. A.	10	45	Nil	Nil
2. Factories not included in (1) in which Sect. 7 is enforced by L. A.	23	15	Nil	Nil
3. Other premises in which Sect. 7 is enforced by L. A. (Excluding outworkers premises)	-	-	-	-
Total.	33	60	-	-

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

Particulars	Found	Remedied	Referred.		Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted.
			To H.M. Inspec	By H.M. Inspec	
Want of cleanliness	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation.	-	-	-	-	-
Total.....	-	-	-	-	-

SECTION E

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk.

No. of Registered dairies

6

The following is a summary of the number of milk samples procured and forwarded to the Public Health Laboratory Service for testing.

Total number of samples procured.	7
From retailers within the rural district	4
From retailers outside the rural district	3
1) <u>Farms Within the Rural District.</u>	
Tuberculin Tested	
Two samples satisfied the Methylene Blue Test	2
<u>Retailers Within the Rural District</u>	
Pasteurised	
Two samples satisfied the Methylene Blue Test	2
2) <u>Farms Outside the Rural District</u>	
Tuberculin Tested	Nil
<u>Producers Outside the Rural District.</u>	
Pasteurised	
Three samples satisfied the Methylene Blue Test	3

Meat and Other Foods.

Carcases and offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part.

	Cattle exc. Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lamb	Pigs	Horses
Number killed (if known)	504	-	-	1159	408	-
Number inspected	504	-	-	1159	408	-
<u>All Diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci.</u>						
Whole Carcases condemned	-	-	-	-	2	-
Carcases some part or organ of which was condemned	160	-	-	5	19	-
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis and Cysticerci.	31.746%	-	-	.431%	5.147%	-
<u>Tuberculosis Only.</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Percentage of number inspec- ted affected with Tuberculosis.	-	-	-	-	-	-
<u>Cysticercosis Only.</u>						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.	1	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases submitted to treat- ment by refrigeration.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned.	-	-	-	-	-	-

The following foods were surrendered to the Council's Meat and Public Health Inspectors.

		lbs.	ozs.
Cooked Ham	2 tins	26	8
Processed Peas	4 tins	-	15½
Fork	1 tin	-	12
Chopped Meat and Tongue	1 tin	-	7
Pineapple Cubes	5 tins	5	-
Tomatoes	1 tin	-	14
Rhubarb	1 tin	-	15
Peaches	1 tin	1	-
Pears.	2 tins	1	-

#### Food Premises.

1) The number of food premises in the area by type of business is as follows:-

Butchers	6
Bakers	3
General Dealers	52
	<u>61</u>

2) The number of premises registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955:-

Butchers	6
Dried Fish Shops	3
Sale of Ice-Cream	41
No. of Registered Dairies	<u>6</u>
	<u>56</u>

There were 10 additions to the register during the year involving registration for the storage and sale of pre-packed ice-cream.

In all, a total of 559 visits were made to food premises and I am pleased to report that the general standard of hygiene and cleanliness remains good and that in minor instances only was informal action necessary to effect improvement. Every effort is made to encourage the use of disposable towelling for hand drying in food premises.



SECTION F

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS  
AND OTHER DISEASES

Hospital accommodation for cases of infectious disease is provided by the Regional Hospital Board at walkergate Hospital, Newcastle.

TABLE SHOWING ANALYSIS OF NOTIFIED CASES OF  
INFECTIOUS DISEASE UNDER AGE GROUPS.

	Age unknown.	Under 1 year	1 - 2 years.	3 - 4 years.	5 - 9 years.	10 - 14 years	15 - 24 years	25 - 34 years	35 - 44 years.	45 - 54 years	55 - 64 years	65 - 74 years	75 yrs & over.	TOTAL.	Admitted to Hospital.
Dysentery	1	-	3	1	1	3	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	11	-
Scarlet Fever	-	-	2	2	1	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	-
Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	5	1	-	9	-
Food Poisoning	1	-	-	1	-	-	1	2	1	-	-	-	1	7	-
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-
Paratyphoid	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	3	-
Measles	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-
Whooping Cough.	-	-	-	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-
Total	2	-	5	6	4	8	2	3	4	1	6	3	1	45	-

Infectious Diseases.

As will be seen from above table there was no major outbreak of any notifiable infectious disease in 1960.

Some Dysentery.

Of the eleven cases of this disease, five were members of one family and two were completely isolated cases in different parts of the district at different periods of the year. There is good reason for suspecting that these two acquired their infection outside the Morpeth Rural District. The remaining four cases were children in a hospital in the district two of whom had had symptoms before admission and were, probably, responsible for introducing the infection.

Food Poisoning.

The seven cases of food poisoning occurred in two quite unrelated households at different times of the year. In one case the suspected article of food was tinned corned beef and in the other was meat pies but the diagnosis was made on clinical grounds only as no food-poisoning organisms were isolated either from specimens of food or from the patients.

Paratyphoid Fever.

The three cases of this disease were all patients in the same ward in a hospital in the district and all followed the infection of a fourth patient who acquired her disease outside the district.



Diphtheria.

For the eleventh consecutive year there was no case of this disease, which has not caused a death since 1946.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

During the year 279 pre-school and 40 school children completed a primary course of treatment, while 129 pre-school and 375 school children received re-inforcing injections.

It is estimated that at 31.12.60 the immunity indices for the different age-groups were as follows:-

Children under 1 year.	33.45
Children aged 1 - 4 years.	80.
Children aged 5 - 14 years.	63.
All children under 15 years.	66.

The figures for pre-school children are very satisfactory, but the figures for the other age-groups are slightly lower than in 1959.

Polionyelitis Vaccination.

This campaign slackened very considerably in 1960 and, during the year 2,371 persons completed the primary course of two injections while 4,766 received a third injection. The comparative figures for 1959 were 7,918 and 9,386, respectively.

From the commencement of the campaign up to 31.12.60. 21,775 persons had received two injections and 17,559 had received three injections.

These figures refer to the whole of the Central Area of the County, as separate figures are not available for the Rural District alone.

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T U B E R C U L O S I SNEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1960

	<u>New Cases.</u>			<u>Deaths.</u>		
	<u>Resp.</u>		<u>Non-resp.</u>	<u>Total</u>		<u>Total</u>
	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>		<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	
55 - 64 years.....	-	-	-	-	1	-
65 - 74 years.....	1	-	-	1	-	-
75 years and over.....	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total.	1	-	-	1	1	1

Only one new case of respiratory tuberculosis was notified in 1960 and no new case of non-respiratory form of the disease came to light. The patient was a man of 74 years and there was one death, a man of 56 years.

Death Rate from Respiratory Tuberculosis in Morpeth R.D.	0.056 per 1000
Death Rate from Respiratory Tuberculosis in England and Wales	0.068 per 1000
Death Rate from Non-respiratory Tuberculosis in Morpeth R.D.	Nil.
Death Rate from Non-respiratory Tuberculosis in England and Wales.	0.007 per 1000

MORTALITY FROM MALIGNANT NEOPLASMS DURING 1960

Site	Males.						Females.					
	Under 1 yr.	45 - 54 years	55 - 64 years	65 - 74 years	75 yrs & over	Total.	35 - 44 years	45 - 54 years	55 - 64 years	65 - 74 years	75 yrs & over	Total.
Larynx	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lung & Bronchus	-	1	2	1	1	5	1	-	-	1	-	2
Breast	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	2
Stomach	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	1	2
Liver	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Caecum	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Colon	-	-	-	1	1	2	-	1	-	-	-	1
Rectum	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Abdomen	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Bladder	-	-	-	1	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Prostate	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total.	1	1	4	4	4	14	1	2	3	1	2	9

Malignant Neoplasms of the Lung and Bronchus.

Death Rate in Morpeth Rural District. 0.392 per 1000  
 Death Rate in England and Wales. 0.481 per 1000

Malignant Neoplasms of All Other Sites.

Death Rate in Morpeth Rural District 0.896 per 1000  
 Death Rate in England Wales. 1.676 per 1000

Malignant Neoplasms of All Sites.

Death Rate in Morpeth Rural District. 1.288 per 1000  
 Death Rate in England and Wales 2.157 per 1000





